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By Germaine Brenkert

Germaine Brenkert

Dated: December 30, 2003

Patent
Atty. Docket: J656-001 DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : John A. Taylor
Serial No. : --
Filing Date : December 30, 2003
For : COATING STRETCH TESTER

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- [] Under 37 C.F.R. 1.129(a), or
(First/Second Submission after Final Rejection)
- [X] Under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), or
(Within any one of the following time periods: three (3) months of filing national application, other than a CPA, or date of entry of the national stage in an international application; or before the mailing date of a first official action on the merits in a non-provisional application, including a CPA; or a Request for Continued Examination (RCE))
- [] Under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c), together with either:
- [] Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), as checked below, or
- [] Fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), or
(After the 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) time period, but before Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, whichever issues first)
- [] Under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(d), together with:
- [] Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), as checked below, and
- [] Fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), or
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[] Under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 (i):

Applicant respectfully requests that the I.D.S. and cited reference(s) be placed in the application file wrapper (Filed after payment of Issue Fee).

Statement Under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e):

- [] Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or
- [] No item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Statement Under 37 C.F.R. 1.704 (d) - (Patent Term Adjustment):

(Applies to original applications, other than designs, filed on or after May 29, 2000)

- [] Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed Herewith is Form PTO-1449, and:

- [x] Copies of the cited references are enclosed.
- [] Copies of the cited references are enclosed, except those entered in prior application, U.S. Serial No. _____, to which priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 is claimed (The earlier application contains copies of the cited references).
- [] The listed references were cited in the enclosed International Search Report in a counterpart foreign application.
- [x] The "concise explanation" requirement (non-English reference) for Reference(s) DE 3011571 under 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3) is satisfied by:
 - [x] the explanation provided on the attached sheet;
 - [] the explanation provided in the specification;
 - [] submission of the enclosed International Search Report; or
 - [x] the enclosed English language Abstract.

[] Applicant requests that the following pending applications be considered:

U.S. Patent/Application No. _____, filed/issued _____
U.S. Patent/Application No. _____, filed/issued _____
U.S. Patent/Application No. _____, filed/issued _____

Examiner

Date

A copy of each above-cited application, including the current claims, is enclosed.

A copy of each above-cited application, including the current claims, is enclosed, except those entered in prior application Serial No. _____, to which priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 is claimed.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to return a copy of the above list of pending applications indicating which references were considered with the next Official Action.

Further, it is respectfully requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

Method of Payment:

A check for the fee noted above is enclosed.

Please charge our deposit account No. 14-1431.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in payment of fees and credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 14-1431.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 30, 2003

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COMMENTS

Unlike German reference DE 3011571, the present invention measures surface tension close to the exit of the nozzle with a short surface age(e.g., 0.33 milliseconds or less). With suitable wetting agents and rheology modifiers, the pendant drop pulls and stretches the fluid with a rapid acceleration at the nozzle exit. Accelerations of up to 10 G's have been observed. When you have this rapid acceleration, the surface age measured for the invention is in the 0.33 milliseconds range. Finding chemistries that have low initial surface tension resulting in this amount of acceleration has extended the curtain coating process past where it is commonly practiced today. The German reference measures the surface tension after 10 milliseconds at the end of the stream where drops are forming.

With the present invention, this method has found wetting agents and rheology modifiers that result in stable curtains with flow rates as low as 0.4 grams/centimeter of width/second. The lowest claim made today without the benefit of this technology is 0.8 gm/cc/sec.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	
		Filing Date	December 30, 2003
		First Named Inventor	John A. Taylor
		Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	J656-001 US

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		DE 3011571	03/26/1980	Heide et al.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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